

this special gift and determine, as some have done to wrap themselves around with black fears and gloomy contemplations, which would be a bad treatment of both God and themselves. Rather let them gladly avail themselves of the light and the beauty of God's morning star which will help them to have a radiant hope, full-orbed and restful in their hearts, a prelude of heaven's glory.

GRANDEUR OF CHARACTER

GEO. A. RUFF

The best thing on God's earth is a good and true man or woman. The greatest thing in this world is a great man. The most blessed thing is a blessed good man. The first thing that a human being should recognize about himself is that his character is his best and most distinguished feature. It is not how much money, or the amount of power, the amount of brains that a man has, that is his distinguishing feature, but his character, whatever fellowmen may temporally say or do, the contrary, notwithstanding. This is a fact, that what separates him from others and gives him his individuality is his goodness or lack of goodness, according to its degree, money, power and brains have their place, statesmanship and eloquence cut an important factor, pretended charity covers a multitude of sins, and they exert an influence in temporally deciding a man's position and recognition, but the standard of ages, by which any one and every one is tried, is character; and in God's sight, which is the final and determining sight. Men are what they are in wishes and purposes. It is not, then, too much to say that the supreme ambition of a person's life should be to secure a worthy character. Everything else, however important, is merely subsidiary. Beauty of person, brilliancy of achievement, acuteness of intellect, sway of authority, great powers of elocution, brightest skill of human intellect, all the vastness of riches and grandeur the human race can put forth are secondary, while goodness is primary,

THE MUSIC OF GODLINESS

MARCUS A. WITTER

There is music in righteousness. Every thought is a note, every deed is a tone. To him who can see and hear every thought we think, our lives are made up either of sweet strains of music or of series of discordant sounds. Which shall it be? How can we so attune our lives to the divine nature that every act of mind and soul will contribute to the unheard melody of godliness?

Right here the musician has a lesson for us. Before he can render a piece of music artistically he must have done two things. He must have mastered his instrument so completely that when he thinks a note his fingers reflexively seek

the proper key to produce it. He must also have studied the music to be played until he can think every note from beginning to end. When he has done these things, he can play the entire piece without a discord.

We ourselves are instruments. Godliness is the music with which we are intended to fill the world around us. Before we can do so we must master both the instrument and the music. This is a great task but our Father has made it possible for us to accomplish it. He has given us the Bible from which to learn the melody of life in harmony with his will. The Holy Spirit is our teacher and Jesus Christ the model whom we are to imitate.

We must study the word until every commandment and precept is written upon our hearts, for these commandments are notes in the music of godliness. Even then there will be discords because we have not complete control of ourselves. Like the musician, we must practice, practice, practice under the guidance of our teacher until we have so completely mastered self that every act will be a note in the divine melody.

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THE NEW YEAR

B. C. MOOMAW

This is that interesting period in the onward and unrelenting flow of time which moralists, newspaper and religious writers usually celebrate with dry-as-dust essays, and an unlimited amount of other dull stuff. We hope that we may be preserved from it. It is a pity to start the long suffering reading public upon another year with "that tired feeling." There will be a sufficient number of trials and annoyances before the year ends. Perhaps it would be well, seeing we are, after all, going to say something, to descant upon the virtues of patience. Yes, patience will be greatly needed, and if you are going to be patient this year, you need to begin right now. Nothing is more indispensable. Take your first lesson immediately, go on to the end of this column.

Seriously, what better equipment can a man have for a long and tedious journey? For the most part the experience of the past doesn't promise an elysium for the future, particularly in this mundane sphere, and unless a man provides a good store of patience with which to meet the trials of life as they come alone, with which to foil the heavy blows of adversity, with which to soothe the pain and the solace the sorrows of life, the probability is that before the year ends he will be worn to a frazzle, mind and spirit, nerves, temper, and every element of his peace, and he will be a crushed clod under the Juggernaut wheel of this evil world.

Yes, against the journey before you,

lay in a good stock of sweet, tender, gentle patience, patience under disappointment, under every kind of trouble; patience with your children; patience with your pupils; patience with your servants; patience with your business associates; patience with your neighbors; patience with your pastor; patience with your editor; accompanied with a prayer that all these people may also be patient with you.

Begin the new year also with faith. Now this isn't necessary if you are able to run everything according to your own notion. If you can make the world in general, Providence and the balance of the universe line up humbly and obediently in your corn patch and hoe it for you; if you can successfully keep off all sorts of cramp colics, pneumonias, fevers and other bacteriological devilment; if you can lock the door against death, and tell him "I'm not at home," or "this is my busy day;" if you do all these things and a thousand others equally as possible, then likely you have no need of God, and should not trouble yourself with the little matter of trusting Him for each moment of the coming year. Of course you can see into the future, and accurately estimate all its perils, trials, battles; you can see the end from the beginning, and know precisely how to plan ahead for everything, and need not to "commit your way unto the Lord," and "trust in Him to bring to pass" that which will be for your best good and for His glory.

Then again, lay in a stock of courage. There is a saying, that faint heart never wins fair lady, and for that matter it never wins anything else that is fair,—fair name, fair success, fair peace. Put on courage. We know there are many hard pressed unfortunates who almost feel like giving up, they are so beset with calamities and difficulties of every kind. They do not need to be scolded, these rasped, hammered, burdened, half discouraged and half despairing people. Nay, we would speak to them a very tender message; "Cast your burden upon the Lord, and he will sustain you." "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." "Cast your care upon him who careth for you." Put this message in your heart, and courage will revive, and burdens will grow lighter, and difficulties will decrease, and enemies will flee. Try it, thou worn, and harrassed, and troubled soul. The Lord will help you; "be strong, yea be strong." "Lift up the hands that hang down, and the feeble knees." Who knows, but that God will give thee a great victory this year.

This they say, is the time for turning over a new leaf. Ah, how beautifully white and clean it is, this new leaf of the new year, of a new time, of new opportunity, of new privilege. It is just like